



Life in the Valley of Riches

By DAN MANCUSO,
Publisher

Starting this week, we are dedicating each issue to a subscriber or new active military member.

This week we chose Gabe Hearn, who is currently in training with the 182nd Airborne. If you have a child or family member who recently entered into service to our country, please let us know. To accompany this new practice we are offering subscriptions to all active military members at a discount. If your child is stationed at a military base anywhere in the world you

can send them the news of the Valley for only \$20 per year.

When I woke up today, like most mornings, I read the Reuters news feed on my BlackBerry to see what happened in the world while I was asleep. One story caught my eye as it dealt with something that I spend a lot of time thinking about, sales. Radio Shack's fourth quarter sales were down and they lost 63 cents per share. They also missed the Street's estimate of a loss of 5 cents per share, causing a 7 percent drop in their stock price.

What makes this something of interest to me is that over the course of the past year at the corporate level, Radio Shack changed directions and stopped its print advertising, choosing instead to go with web ads. Since it is an electronic sales company, web advertising may seem wise since techies are probably pretty web savvy, but I have to wonder if that may have been a small part of the company's profit problem.

This brings me to a more local issue, Shop Smart. At the very end of last year I received a box from Shop Smart. In that box was an insert (ad flyers) for our paper telling you that as of Jan. 2, you would no longer be receiving your Shop Smart inserts in the paper. Like you, this was the first time I heard about the change. There was no letter, no email and no phone call; just a box of inserts with the announcement. A major Illinois Valley News advertiser was pulling the plug with no warning.

Since that time, I have asked my wife to not shop there, urging her instead to go to Ray's, which helps you receive a paper each week by inserting their flyers. Last week, though, Laura needed a few things and decided to shop in town at ShopSmart instead of heading to Selma to go to Ray's. What she told me upon her return raised one of my eyebrows. A person in the line ahead of her was trying to use the coupons out of the Ray's inserts. The cashier at ShopSmart politely told the person that they were not good at the store. When Laura was checking out, she asked the cashier if that happened a lot and the cashier replied, "almost every day."

While Radio Shack may have been advertising to their "techie" base, I hardly think that Shop Smart is. Statistics show that fewer than 40 percent of rural Americans have internet service at home and only 30 percent of seniors use the web. Statistics also show that just 43 percent of impoverished Americans have internet service. So, I ask Shop Smart this, If 70 percent of Josephine County residents are on a fixed income due to the high level of seniors and welfare recipients, why are you using the internet to market to grocery shoppers? Readers, I implore you to contact C&K Markets in Brookings to ask the same question.

Thank you for picking up this week's paper, enjoy ~ djm

A moment with Mary: by Mary Halvorsen

Friends came this weekend from central Washington to reacquaint themselves with the area. They lived here twenty-five years ago and are ready to move back. Their search includes our valley, Evans Valley, Shady Cove, and all outlying areas of Jackson and Josephine Counties.

We spent yesterday driving up Caves Highway, out Rockydale, and touring Holland Loop. It was interesting to hear them express how beautiful it was. I have gotten used to deflecting wisecracks and the laundry list of imperfections that those who live outside our valley seem compelled to click off.

We drove to Takilma, so they could take photos of the Dome School to send to their daughter in law, who teaches at a charter school and is looking to leave the city. We turned off the road, steered up the hill through the trees and parked on the gravel driveway in sight of the building. There was a cool breeze, and as I looked up, the canopy of firs and madrones was so thick and tall I couldn't see the sky, only

branches swaying.

I don't remember what we talked about, only that it was effortless, that it flowed with the familiarity of something I do every day. It reminded me of how we used to sit around thirty years ago just talking, that it was important then, and still is. I wonder what it is about certain people, that even though years go by without seeing them, it doesn't impact the close relationships that formed decades ago. Maybe certain kinds of friendships can't spring up over night. Perhaps what writer/critic John Leonard observed is true, that, "It takes a long time to grow an old friend."

We sat at the kitchen table, earlier in the day, scanning a map of where they had looked and where they planned to look. From behind I felt a hand clap onto each shoulder and give a solid shake, saying without words, "We're here, we're back." And I felt myself relax a little, in the company of these old friends.

Later that same evening, as we stood on

the deck, the sun almost down behind the hills west of town, I noted the three chairs waiting for us to sit. One that I found recently at Darn Near Everything is reported to be a vintage Kaufman, the other, a two-seater, was bought from Mike Harris over twenty years ago. The enduring strength of these sturdy old pieces makes me think of longtime friends. Kaufman's website describes their materials and furniture making almost like a discovery process, explaining, "...knots may create unusual shapes, and grain patterns often emerge to create fascinating effects." It is also disclosed that "...unless specially treated, our outdoor furniture will gray with age."

The Kaufman piece has been painted brown and doesn't look a day over thirty. Mike's have been allowed to go gray with age and exposure, but both are rock solid, sturdy, strong in the face of storms and bumps, like my friends and I.

Random House describes a friend as

"a person attached by feelings of affection or personal regard" or "a person who is not hostile." While these things are true, the definition has missed the mark on what it takes to really be a friend.

As we explained to each other our hopes for the next twenty years, why having a little plot of land was good, I thought of Henry David Thoreau's take on friendship: "Friends... they cherish one another's hopes. They are kind to one another's dreams."

It's sort of like chairs. There are many that are functional for outdoor sitting and many have been on and off our deck over the years, but few have been able to withstand the test of time, like the ones sitting there now. They are graying and worn in places, but were crafted with care, in hopes they could endure a lifetime, and be something to find comfort in as the years go by. Like old friends.

Letters to the Editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes Letters to the Editor. Please e-mail them to dan@illinois-valley-news.com

POLICY ON LETTERS: 'Illinois Valley News' encourages letters to the editor provided they are legible and not libelous or scurrilous. All letters must be signed, including name, address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The "News" reserves the right to edit letters. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher.

(Editor's Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers)

PLEASE

In April 2012 someone took my hand-carved name sign

23833 Redwood Hwy, Kerby. It was made by my youngest son who has Parkinson's. I will never get another. Don't know what I did to have it taken. It was along the road and has been for some time. Please return.

Claryce Bishop
Cave Junction

Vaccine vs. Serum

In 1968 I sold 97 baby red foxes to people in Los Angeles. The foxes came from a fur farm in Iowa. They typically were sold to hunt clubs for English fox hunting, and then the fur was sold.

One day I received a call from a Southern California health department asking questions about the origin of the foxes. They were concerned that maybe all the foxes had rabies. I asked them if the animals were given a dog or cat rabies shot. They didn't know and later called back to say they were given dog vaccines. The health

department was curious as to why I would ask about cats or dogs and I replied that the fur farm only used cat shots as it's a serum instead of a vaccine.

Many of the foxes sold escaped from their homes in southern California and I assume they now have Red Foxes in addition to the Grey and Kit foxes that are native to that area.

I used to sell baby de-scented skunks. The fish and game department came to me and said no more skunk sales as it seems that skunks can be born with rabies and live and breed with no ill effects.

I know people that found baby skunks and brought them up like a cat. They never made a skunk smell.

We have many skunks in the Valley as my dogs are constantly messing with them in our carport.

Jim Lombardo
O'Brien

Save the date

Feb. 27

Wed. 6 p.m. Feb. 27

The Library celebrates human diversity and explores how we are all connected with 4 TED Talks on Diversity by amazing people with discussion to follow.

March 1

Friday March 1st at 7 pm at the Dome School -- enjoy a presentation and photo slide show of the Queen of Bronze Copper Mine and Takilma area ca. 1905 with a history of Gold and Copper mining in Josephine County by local historian Greg Walter. There will be a requested \$2 donation for the Dome School

March 2

The Grad Night Committee announcement!

This weekend on Saturday March 2, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. the Senior Class is hosting a Breakfast Fundraiser at the Senior Center, which is located across the street from the High School.

This fundraiser is for the Safe and Sober all night Grad Party for this year's Illinois Valley High School Senior Class of 2013.

March 3

Please make the time to attend this fundraiser at the Senior Center, by doing so you can help support a Safe and Sober Graduation Night for our IVHS Senior Class of 2013.

Connecting to Your Plant Allies: Monthly Women's Healing Circle

Sundays 2-6pm March 3rd, will continue if there is interest. Cost \$60-150 sliding scale/3 months. Pre-registration is necessary, class size limited to 7. Foster connection with your herbal allies and learn how they can support your personal growth in a supportive atmosphere. Class will begin with tea tasting and a guided meditation. Monthly themes will include elimination, nourishing, and adapting. Learn about specific healing plants and strengthen the relationship you have with these allies. Learn herbal healing techniques such as hydrotherapy, making herbal massage oils, compresses, etc. Class will be designed for the needs of the group. Self-expression through journaling, art, music, herb gardening, etc. is encouraged as homework!

March 5

Lorna Byrne Middle School Festival Concert - March 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the LBMS Gym. Free admission.

March 6

Wed. 6 p.m. March 6 Genealogy Workshop Celeste Guillory shares how to research your family history without subscribing to expensive fee-based programs.

March 7

Illinois Valley H.S. Classics Concert - March 7th at 7:00 PM in the IVHS Commons. Free admission.

Monthly Herbal Tea Party First Thursdays 5:30-7pm

March Tea tasting, discussion, Q&A. Tea and snacks provided! Cost \$10-20 sliding scale. Drop-in, no registration necessary. Do you want to learn more about the herbs that grow here and how they can become your allies in health while sipping tea with your friends? Learn proper brewing techniques, identify the different flavors of the herbs, learn herbal vocabulary, and how to integrate herbs into your daily life.

Ongoing

Free. Strength and balance exercise for seniors. M., W. & F. 9 - 10 a.m. at 113 Caves Ave. 541-592-2614.

Josephine Community Libraries

I.V. Branch Library

592-4778

Free Wednesday Programs

Wed. 6pm Feb. 27 TED Talks- Diversity

Join us as we celebrate human diversity and explore how we are all connected. We'll watch 4 different talks by amazing people with discussion to follow.

Wed. 6pm March 6 Genealogy Workshop

Celeste Guillory shares how to research your family history without subscribing to expensive fee-based programs.

PLEASE BECOME A MEMBER TODAY.



I. V. BRANCH LIBRARY HOURS

WEDNESDAY 2-6PM
FRIDAY 11-3PM
SATURDAY 11-4PM

Bake Sale Nifty & Gifty Thrift

Saturday, March 2

10 a.m. to 2

Immanuel United
Methodist Church

200 W. Watkins, Cave Junction

Off The Hook BBQ
WILL BE CLOSED
FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 5
AND OPEN AGAIN
MARCH 6
541-295-7176

Illinois Valley News

Published weekly by
W.H. Allthway, LLC
Daniel J. Mancuso, Publisher

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to P.O. Box 1370, Cave Junction OR 97523

Illinois Valley News is published at 221 S. Redwood Hwy., Cave Junction, OR 97523 Telephone (541) 592-2541 FAX (541) 592-4330

Since 1937 periodicals postage paid at Cave Junction OR 97523 P.O. Box 1370 USPS 258-820

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year in Josephine County - \$28.50
One year in Jackson and Douglas counties - \$32.50
One year in all other Oregon counties and out-of-state - \$39.00

Illinois Valley News does not refund subscriptions. Remainder of subscription will be donated to the charity of your choice.

News - Dan Mancuso
dan@illinois-valley-news.com

Circulation - Kimberly Potter
office@illinois-valley-news.com

Advertising / Composition
Dan Mancuso
dan@illinois-valley-news.com

Mailroom - Millie Watkins

Office Manager-Laura Mancuso
office@illinois-valley-news.com

POLICY ON LETTERS: 'Illinois Valley News' encourages letters to the editor provided they are legible and not libelous or scurrilous. All letters must be signed, including name, address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The 'News' reserves the right to edit letters. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher.